

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 23 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, and 14 stand rejected under § 102(b) as anticipated by McNeil '351. Claims 18 through 23 have been allowed. Claims 2 through 4, 6 through 12, 15, and 16 stand objected to but allowable if rewritten in independent form.

With the present Amendment, claim 2 is amended to be placed in independent form and is thus allowable. Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 2 and are thus also allowable.

Claim 6 is amended herein to be placed in independent form and is thus allowable. Claims 7 through 12 depend from claim 6 and are thus also allowable.

Claim 15 is amended herein to be placed in independent form and is thus allowable. Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 15 and are thus also allowable.

As stated, claims 1, 13, and 14 stand rejected as anticipated over McNeil '351. Claim 5 is not addressed in the Office Action and applicants are assuming that claim 5 was also meant to be rejected in view of McNeil '351. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 14 patentably distinguish over McNeil '351 as discussed below.

Claim 1 calls for the web cut-off assembly to include a chopper roll having a first blade and a second blade extending from a circumference surface of the chopper roll. The first blade extends from the chopper roll circumferential surface at an angle having a tangential and a radial component, and the second blade has a blade tip segment extending from the chopper roll circumferential surface at an angle having a tangential and a radial component. Claim 1 specifically calls for the second blade tip segment to

be resiliently mounted relative to the chopper roll. Similarly, independent claim 14 calls for the chopper roll to include a first blade and a second blade extending from a circumferential surface of the chopper roll and for the second blade to be resiliently mounted to the chopper roll.

McNeil '351 does not disclose an arrangement wherein the chopper roll blades extend radially outward beyond the circumferential surface of the chopper roll and, wherein the second blade is resiliently mounted relative to the chopper roll. With the device according to McNeil '351, the chopper roll blades 32 (see Fig. 3) are mounted to the chordal flat face 43 of the chopper roll and, thus, do not extend from a circumferential surface of the roll. In fact, McNeil '351 expressly describes that "the tips of the blades 32 are in the radius-circle of the circular portions of the roll." (Column 4, lines 47-49) In other words, as can be clearly seen in Fig. 3, the tips of the blades 32 do not extend radially outward beyond the radius-circle surface (i.e. the circumferential surface) of the roll 23. If the circumferential line of the roll 23 were drawn through Fig. 3, it could be seen that the tips of the blades 32 do not extend radially outward beyond the circumferential line surface.

Also, McNeil '351 does not disclose that one of the blades 32 is resiliently mounted relative to the roll 23. The blades 32 are rigidly mounted relative to the roll 23 and neither of the blades 32 is resiliently or flexibly mounted relative to the roll 23. As described in the Background section of the application, the pad arrangement used in McNeil '351 for stretching the web material is precisely the type of device the present invention is meant to improve upon. For this purpose, the second blade incorporates unique characteristics, including its angular orientation and resilient mounting feature.

McNeil '351 does not disclose a second chopper roll blade having a tangential and radial component that is also resiliently mounted relative to the chopper roll.

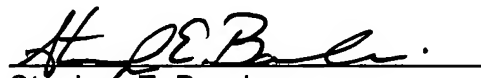
Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed herein, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 14 define over McNeil '351 and are allowable. Claims 5 and 13 depend from claim 1 and are thus also allowable.

With the present Amendment, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at his convenience to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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